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LETTER DATED 2 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Appeal by the Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State of the Republic of Georgia, His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze dated 28 July 1993.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for this letter, as well as the attached Appeal, to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter P. CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

Annex

Appeal dated 28 July 1993 by the Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State of the Republic of Georgia

The agreement on cease-fire in Abkhazia has been signed. At noon today the cannons will fall silent. This is the third attempt to put an end to the fratricidal war. The first two were foiled and it cost the Georgian and the Abkhaz peoples a great deal. I hope that the third attempt will be the last one and peace will finally prevail in our common land.

For this to happen each participant of the peace process - the leaders on both sides, those who conduct actual monitoring, the military observers and the blue helmets - should display highest sense of responsibility.

Each soldier, whichever side he may have been fighting for, will now need greater courage than at the battlefield - the courage to establish peace.

It takes courage and patience, tolerance and magnanimity of our citizens - Georgians, Abkhazs, Armenians, Russians and Greeks, who have immensely suffered as a result of this war. It is hard to call for forgiveness when the wounds are still sore, but without it nothing can stop the bloodshed.

I request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, the Security Council and the leaders of these States that have been asked to send military observers and peace-keeping contingents, to settle these matters in the shortest possible time. The United Nations has a chance to prove again its reputation as the chief peacemaking power on the planet, and this opportunity should not be wasted.

The President of Russia has welcomed the determination of the sides to stop hostilities. I should like to believe that this agreement will be a turning point in the relations of Georgia and Russia and thus will open up the way for the signing of the Georgian-Russian documents, which in their turn will help restore stability in the Caucasus and the Black Sea region.

We want to live in peace and harmony with the peoples of Caucasus and the Black Sea area, and we are telling them: "The Caucasian mountain range does not divide, it rather unites us".

Our common responsibility for peace in Abkhazia requires that we should be highly vigilant. The agreement just signed has many enemies, and they do not conceal their intentions. This document was difficult to develop and even more difficult to sign. I have assumed the onus of responsibility, too heavy for one man, but, after all, it is not my fate that matters, at stake are the fates of the peoples I hold dear, the only ones capable of stopping the war.

May good will prevail!

Eduard Shevardnadze